

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01

INR-05 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01

SAM-01 OES-02 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01 TRSE-00 FRB-01 PA-01

USIA-06 PRS-01 NIC-01 SAJ-01 /094 W
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R 120851Z NOV 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2842

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 12310

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG CH FR

SUBJ: PRC SUPPORT FOR FRENCH-PROPOSED OIL TALKS

SUMMARY: THE PRC MAY HAVE GIVEN WHAT APPEARS TO BE QUALI-

FIED SUPPORT TO THE FRENCH PLAN TO HOLD A TRIPARTITE CON-
FERENCE ON PETROLEUM INVOLVING DEVELOPING, PRODUCER, AND
CONSUMER COUNTRIES. END SUMMARY.

1. PRC DEPUTY PREMIER TENG HSIAO-PING HAS INDICATED PRC
INTEREST IN THE FRENCH PROPOSAL AS A MEANS OF "TAKING INTO
ACCOUNT THE LEGITIMATE INTERESTS OF DEVELOPING NATIONS"
AND THEIR PRESENCE "AT THE DISCUSSION TABLE" ON ENERGY
PROBLEMS, ACCORDING TO A NOVEMBER 10 AFP REPORT FROM
PEKING QUOTING FRENCH PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT MINISTER,
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ROBERT GALLEY. GALLEY, WHO IS IN PEKING AS HEAD OF A

FRENCH DELEGATION COMMEMORATING THE NEW PEKING -PARIS AIR LINK BY CAAC, SAID HIS MEETING WITH TENG HAD SHOWN HOW SIMILAR AND CLOSELY RELATED WERE PRC-FRENCH VIEWPOINTS ON SUCH PROBLEMS AS NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE AND SAFEGUARDING OF THE THIRD WORLD'S INTERESTS IN ENERGY.

2. IF ACCURATE, THE STATEMENT BY TENG MARKS A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN THE PRC'S GROWING INVOLVEMENT IN WORLD PETROLEUM AFFAIRS, AND IS THE FIRST PUBLIC HINT THAT IT MIGHT

BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN SOME SORT OF WORLD ENERGY CONFERENCE. HITHERTO, THE PRC HAS CONFINED ITSELF TO GENERAL STATEMENTS IN SUPPORT OF THE "USE OF OIL AS A WEAPON" BY OIL PRODUCERS TO "REDRESS UNFAIR ECONOMIC EXPLOITATIONS" BY THE INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES. ALTHOUGH CAREFULLY PHRASED AND QUALIFIED, THE REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO TENG APPEAR TO BE A PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT BY THE PRC OF THE DIFFERING INTERESTS BETWEEN PRODUCERS AND NON-PRODUCERS AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD. IT ALSO BRINGS THE PRC FACE-TO-FACE PUBLICLY WITH THE PROBLEM OF RECONCILING THIS DIVISION WITH ITS OWN STRATEGY OF CHAMPIONING THE CAUSE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES--PRODUCER AND NON-PRODUCER ALIKE.

3. THE FRENCH CONSOLE IN HONG KONG IS UNABLE TO CONFIRM THE AFP REPORT, BUT AN OFFICER REMARKED THAT AFP USUALLY RENDERS ACCURATE REPORTS WHEN FRENCH OFFICIALS ARE INVOLVED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, MEETINGS, EXPORTERS, IMPORTERS, POPULAR SUPPORT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974HONGK12310
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740325-0527
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741151/aaaabric.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAY 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <17 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRC SUPPORT FOR FRENCH-PROPOSED OIL TALKS SUMMARY: THE PRC MAY HAVE GIVEN WHAT APPEARS TO BE QUALI-TAGS: ENRG, CH, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005